fessor Graham, marked 'Durham, 1836,' seems to me to agree with this form, but I have not seen any undoubted English specimens.

R. angustifolius, Gmel. Calyces glabrous, with acute segments, leaves very narrow, seeds nearly or quite wingless. Scotland (Fort George, Professor Balfour; corn-fields in Nairn, Mr. Stables).

This plant appears to me to be rare on the continent of Europe. I have found it near Cracow; but though Mr. Bentham says, "in Europæ mediæ et præsertim australioris pascuis," I have never seen specimens from the south of Europe. It is true that if the character derived from the seeds be not permanent, it is very difficult to distinguish this from *R. major*, *β. alpina*, Benth., as the latter plant has frequently very narrow leaves; but as I have already observed, I am not able to confirm the asserted variableness of the form of the seeds, which are constantly winged in all the specimens of *R. major* which I have examined.

It may be suspected that two other described species, *R. buccalis*, Wallr., and *R. Reichenbachii*, Drejer, constitute between them a variety of *R. angustifolius*, having the same relation to that plant that the common European *R. major* has to the variety *β. alpina* of Bentham. J. Ball.

ECHINORHINUS SPINOSUS.

Falmouth, Dec. 7, 1849.

Sir,—I send a short description of a splendid specimen of the "*Echinorhinus spinosus*," Blainv., caught yesterday a few miles from the harbour by one of Mrs. Chard's trawl-boats—for your Journal, should you consider it worth insertion.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. Taylor, Esq. W. P. Cocks.

Description.—Head depressed; eyes bright, copperish; nose obtuse; mouth large; teeth in both jaws broad and low, the edge nearly horizontal. Body thick, 2 feet in depth and 7 in length (from snout to commencement of caudal fin); pectoral fins small, truncated; dorsal two, placed very far back, opposite to abdominal fins.

Surface of skin polished and covered with strong bony spines of various sizes and heights, arising from circular bases from $\frac{1}{8}$th to $\frac{4}{8}$ths of an inch in diameter.

Colour.—Back and sides dark leaden gray; abdomen, throat, &c., dirty yellowish white, clouded all over with light gray and brown; base of fins brownish.

A white line extended from the base of the pectoral fins to commencement of the caudal. Five large branchial apertures.

It weighed more than 200 lbs.

On the Presence of Entophyta in healthy living Animals. By Dr. Leidy.

From the opinion so frequently expressed, that contagious diseases and some others might have their origin and reproductive character through the agency of cryptogamic spores, which, from their minuteness and lightness, are so easily conveyed from place to place through